

WATER SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY November 18, 2009

Administration: Rachel Cardone, Chair

- Members Present: Valerie Cholvin, Dave Magorty, Frank Metheny, Alice Lanczos, Laura Markley, Eric Anderson, Tom Grant, Priscilla Call, Rachel Cardone
- SPU Staff Present: Julie Burman, Pat O'Brien, Sue Morrison
- Review of October meeting summary 1 correction noted

AGENDA TOPICS:

Emergency Drinking Water - a Regional Approach

Pat O'Brien, Strategic Advisor 2

Pat explained that all utilities are required to have emergency drinking water plans to assist in any major disruption of service. The plans are scaled to match the intensity of the disruption. Critical facilities (fire stations, hospitals, community centers) and special populations (dialysis patients, nursing homes, and schools) must be included in the plans. Federal grant funds were awarded to cover the capital equipment costs necessary for SPU to implement a plan. SPU has three plans based on the size of the outage: PLAN A – (Small outage) Crews of SPU staff would deliver water to affected customers door to door. PLAN B – (Medium outage) SPU and bottled water companies would distribute water door to door. PLAN C – (Large outage) Water would be distributed at a centralized location via a mobile distribution system. Citizens would come to the distribution center. Information would be communicated to citizens through the media and emergency phone system regarding distribution center locations. Water from the blivets would first be sampled and evaluated by SPU's lab before distributing to the public.

The large scale distribution plan depends on a drinking water manifold system which was designed and tested by SPU. The system is easy to use, light weight, folds up and is stored in crates. The components meet FDA approval. The system is flexible and designed to draw water from hydrants or portable potable blivets. Each manifold can disperse 36 quarts of water in 25 seconds. SPU has six manifold systems.

Pat emphasized that each citizen should be individually prepared. Preparation includes measures in the "3 days 3 ways" add campaign. The basics of being prepared include water (one gallon per person per day – for 3 days), food, first aid kits, tools & supplies, clothing & bedding, and special items for family members with special needs such as infants, elderly, or disabled persons. Committee feedback included suggestions that reminders / communications go out to customers in bills or newsletters to tell the public where they can get water

containers for individual preparation. It was also suggested that a "Chinook Book" advertisement / coupon would be a method to promote the purchase of containers. SPU purchases single gallon jugs for distribution during an emergency at a cost of \$1.00. Five gallon jugs are also available, but are quite heavy. It was also suggested that SPU locate a corporate partner to contribute funds. Also, within the customer bills, requests to donate money to help vulnerable populations might be effective. SPU could consult SCL and PSE to determine how much money they've raised in donations from customers that check the donation box.

Committee Business

Rachel Cardone / Julie Burman

Dave Hilmoe and the State Department of Health will attend the December WSAC meeting to discuss their regulatory role and relationship with SPU. Julie asked that WSAC members be thinking about the Drinking Water Quality Report, the Water System Plan and other topics where SPU interacts with WDOH to facilitate a productive discussion.

Julie reviewed ideas for the draft 2010 WSAC work plan (see handout):

- Dave Hilmoe's Strategic Outlook, Budget and Projects
- SPU Drinking Water Quality report (background from Dept. of Health)
- Regional Water Supply & Demand considering climate change. Would like to get someone from outside of SPU. Julie will check with the Water Supply Forum.
- Cascade Water Alliance Still buying SPU water. Their contract with SPU could potentially change. Invite a representative from Cascade to discuss their options..
- SPU analytical work regarding Climate Change
- Reclaimed Water economic analysis
- Business case for investment in Water Conservation Plan.
- New Sockeye Hatchery.
- Habitat Conservation Plan What's been achieved?
- Fire flow & other service levels
- Water Rights Perhaps invite the Department of Ecology

Rachel will create a survey thru survey monkey that will give members the opportunity to voice their opinion on 2010 work plan items. Dave and Julie will dicuss it with Ray Hoffman in January.

Alice Lanczos suggested a field trip during 2010 to the Greenwood Bioswales. Laura Firth-Markley suggested that some "cross pollination" between CAC committees could occur in a joint fieldtrip, and would be beneficial to both committees.

Wrap Up Rachel Cardone

• Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 16th.